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Minutes of Meeting of the **Communities and Tourism Committee** held on **18th July 2025 in Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate, BN26 6AL at 10:00.**

PRESENT: Councillors D Dunbar, C Berry, M Piper, D Watts, A Wood, M Cunningham, S Shing, J Heward, M Caira **(9)**

1 member of the public present

NOT PRESENT: Councillors A O’Kane, J Keen, and D Murray **(3)**

MINUTES

13840 Item 1: Opportunity for Public Comment for items on the agenda

None

13841 Item 2: Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllrs A O’Kane, J Keen, D Murray

No other apologies received

13842 Item 3: Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

13843 Item 4: Minutes of the Meeting Dated 31st January 2025

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Communities and Tourism meeting held on 31st January 2025 as circulated on the agenda be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chair. VOTE ALL IN FAVOUR

13844 Item 5: Motion to discuss Walking Festival as per the Business Plan

It was agreed to promote to Polegate Plodders, Polegate Ramblers, and other local walking and running groups, alongside local schools and businesses.

There was discussion about involving local schools in designing promotional posters and signage, potentially turning this into a competition. The possibility of collaborating with Hailsham Active was also raised.

The group discussed Diplock's Wood, its proximity to the campsite, and its access points to the South Downs National Park.

Additionally, the idea of organising a park and ride scheme using Cuckmere Community Buses to connect with the Cuckoo Trail walking festival 2026 was to be explored.

It was resolved to keep the Walking Festival in the Business Plan and to make the focus for the Walking Festival 2026 around the Cuckoo Trail.

13845 Item 6: Motion to discuss the vision for World Book Day 2026 as per the Business Plan.

It was resolved to leave World Book Day in the Business Plan and then wait until the library CIC is running and work with the Library CIC when it gets closer to the date. VOTE all in favour.

13846 Item 7: Motion to discuss the Summer Festival 2026

It was resolved to go forward with the Summer Festival 2026 and to recommend to the Finance Committee to approve £6,500 from General Reserves and add to the 2026/27 budget. VOTE all in favour.

13847 Item 8: Motion to discuss ideas for the Christmas Switch On Event

There was a discussion about whether the Council should invite a well-known person to switch on the Christmas lights. Members also talked about promoting the Switch-On Event by involving Southern Rail.

It was resolved to have the Polegate Drama Group to turn on the Christmas Switch On Event 2025. VOTE all in favour.

The meeting closed at 10:39pm

Signed Chair of Meeting _____ Date _____